

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the last paragraph beginning on page 4 with the following paragraph.

A further regional property may be used to further identify a contone region as a pictorial contone region. In these embodiments, the luminance histogram data is analyzed. The two dominant histogram bins are removed from consideration and the remaining bins are analyzed to determine whether they represent a typical bi-modal distribution. ~~It~~ If the distribution is more varied than bi-modal, the region is considered pictorial.